



***UNDERGROUND SHOT FIRER (COAL)***  
**PHOTO ID REQUIRED**

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

**CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: *\*Underground Shot Firer (Coal)***

This certification authorizes the holder to perform blasting operations, pre-blasting and post-blasting examinations, and handle corrective measures in misfired shots in underground coal mines.

**NOTE:** This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification.

**APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Application (BCME-1) and \$40.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
  - **Note:** Classes are limited to 20 people and tend to fill quickly. Application fees are due no later than 5 working days prior to the examination, but this will not guarantee that an opening will be available.
- Two years coal mining experience underground,
  - one year of the two years shall be handling and using explosives underground under the direction of a certified underground shot firer or;
  - completion of a 24 hour shot firer class approved by the Chief and taught by a DM approved shot firer instructor or;
  - appropriately related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines.
- **NOTE: Experience must be submitted within 5 years of passing the examination. After 5 years records are destroyed. Must reapply if future certification is desired.**
- Hold a General Miner Certification
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** A score of 85% on each element of the examination.

<b>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</b>	<b>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</b>
▪ Principles of Blasting (PB)	20
▪ Surface Storage (SS)	20
▪ Underground Storage (US)	20
▪ Underground Transportation (UT)	20
▪ Federal Regulations (FR)	20
▪ Underground Blasting (UB)	
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	

**RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

- Title 30 CFR (Included in study guide)
- Mining Laws of Virginia (\$25.00)
- BCME Requirements (No charge)
- Underground Shot Firer Study Guide (\$5.00)
- First Aid for Miners Study Guide (\$15.00)

**The above mentioned materials are available at the Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8235 and the Lebanon Field Office (276) 415-9650.**

**\* Continuing education required. See BCME Requirements. (Effective August 25, 2004)**